

## **Description of the Middleton School District**

Middleton School District #134 encompasses approximately 100 square miles of area. The MSD #134 is located in a rural community and considered a medium sized Idaho School District. This unique rural bedroom community (population 4,166) offers a rare quality of life and is nestled in the Treasure Valley with two mountain ranges in full view. Middleton residents are within easy commuting distance (6-25 miles) of large industries and are surrounded by agricultural land. Highway 44 passes through town, providing easy access to I-84 (3 miles to the west) and to Boise and the State Capital (20 miles to the east), as well as easy access to health facilities, creative arts centers and accredited higher education facilities. Middleton has the distinction of being the oldest town in Canyon County and one of the oldest in the State of Idaho. The town plat was drawn up in 1863 by William N. Montgomery and aptly named Middleton because it was located midway between Boise City and old Fort Boise.

During the past several years, MSD #134 has been among the fastest growing School Districts. Achievements in curriculum development, technology, teacher collaboration, media and patron communication, and professional development have brought the District to the attention of other Idaho and surrounding states as being a proactive, forward thinking

**Description of the Middleton School District (continued)**

District. Class sizes are maintained at numbers close to the State recommended levels: K-3 grades (20 students), 4-5 grades (26 students), 6-8 grades (25 students) and 9-12 grades (22 students). Every Wednesday afternoon students are dismissed early and teachers collaborate. At the end of the third year of weekly collaboration, there is irrefutable data that this is time well spent, as it has made the difference for the students in many ways.

The District's 2,900 students are housed in five schools (see item #2.0). Three elementary schools (Heights constructed in 1987, Mill Creek constructed in 1998 and Purple Sage constructed in 2003) educate 1,370 students. The one middle school (constructed in 1974) educates 710 students. The one high school (constructed in 1964) educates 810 students. Four of their five schools exceed capacity (see item #4.0) and the MSD #134 is currently adding portable classrooms (see item #5.0) until their bonding capacity builds up to allow a bond issue election for a new 1,550 student high school.

The MSD #134 is working proactively with new housing developments and have received three future elementary school sites to build the District's 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> elementary schools. A sixty-acre high school site was purchased for a new school and will provide the needed secondary classroom space by allowing the existing high school building to become part of the Middle School campus, on or around 2011.